01 September 1998

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MCD		JPWR	
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NORTEL PATENTS

RECS		NS	
RECS		MGS	
GR		LB	
JW		JM	

Dear Michael

RE: ID1048
TITLE: CONCATENATION OF CONTAINERS IN SYNCHRONOUS DIGITAL HIERARCHY NETWORK
INVENTORS: JOHN PAUL RUSSELL, CHRISTOPHER DAVID MURTON, DAVID MICHAEL GOODMAN, CHRISTOPHER RAMSDEN, JAMES SHIELDS

Please find enclosed herewith first draft specification for the virtual concatenation invention.

The patent specification comprises a description of the best mode for carrying out the invention, followed by a set of claims. It is important that the "best mode" section is a description of the best way of carrying out the invention that you currently envisage. In this case, since there has been some lack of clarity over what the term "virtual concatenation" encompasses, and how this is different from the prior art, it may be useful to pay particular attention to perhaps introducing a few sentences explaining exactly what is meant by virtual concatenation. Also, the way in which the containers are associated with each other by means of the bytes within the VC payloads should be checked to ensure that this is correctly described and clear enough, and similarly for the OSI layer 2 data frame markers A, B. (see fig. 8)

Regarding the claims; these are arranged as follows:-
- Claims 1-7 address means and apparatus for assembling a virtual concatenation containing an OSI layer 2 data frame.
- Claims 8-18 address a method and apparatus for recovering OSI layer 2 data from a plurality of received virtually concatenated virtual containers.

The main point about the claims is to ensure that there are no _inessential_ features mentioned in the main independent claims (claims 7,8,11,12,17). In particular, is it necessary for virtual concatenation of VCs, that there is the OSI layer 2 data frame limitation in the payload, or could it be any block of data whether OSI layer 2 or not? If so, how does virtual concatenation in this invention differ from virtual concatenation in lower order paths of VC – 4 (and what does that mean anyway?). I look forward to receiving your comments, preferably by marking the

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manuscript with amendments, or by phone call, on receipt of which I will do the necessary amendments for producing the final specification.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Robert B Franks

Encs: First Draft Specification x 1.

CC.   Ewan Bewley
        John Russell (Letter only)